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RAMIREZ SUPPORTS VENEZUELAN BORDER PROPOSAL

PA062218 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 6 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo has described his Venezuelan colleague's idea to consider using the International Court of Justice at The Hague to solve the two countries' border differences as a historic proposal.

However, on behalf of the Colombian Government, Mr Ramirez Ocampo said that mediation or arbitration should only be sought after direct negotiations have been exhausted. He added that those negotiations should have a deadline to prevent further delays on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas.

Foreign Minister Ramirez Ocampo said: Those negotiations have been frozen since the signing of a (?draft treaty) was frustrated during the administration of President Turbay Ayala because his colleague Luis Herrera Campins did not find the proper conditions in Venezuela to formalize an agreement.

He concluded: Given that we are permanent advocates of dialogue, we agree with either system: direct negotiations or mediation by international organizations.

NEW 'IMPORTANT' OIL FIELD DISCOVERED IN ARAUCA

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[Text] Bogota, 5 Feb (DPA) -- An official source in Bogota has reported another important oil discovery in Colombia, in Arauca near the Venezuelan border.

The state-owned Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) and the multinational Occidental Petroleum Corporation, which are jointly carrying out those explorations, reported that the new field could gain "worldwide importance" due to its potential reserves. The discovery was made in the vicinity of Cano Limon, in the eastern plains, where another field with a high production potential was recently discovered.

Colombia, which currently produces 160,000 barrels per day, plans to be self-sufficient by 1987 and to begin exporting the surplus. Recently the country ceased to be an exporter of fuel and became an importer.

Ecopetrol President Rodolfo Segovia and Occidental President Ray Irani, who is visiting Colombia, stated in a joint communique issued in Bogota that the first well drilled in the new oil field has a combined reserve of 6,200 barrels per day of 33.7 degrees API petroleum. This well is approximately 5 km west of the Cano Limon field and its geological structure is different than that of Cano Limon.

The communique stated: "This new discovery increases the importance of the Cravo Norte (Cano Limon) area. It makes it an oil-producing region with great worldwide importance due to the volume of its reserves and production potential."

The communique also revealed that preparations to begin drilling other prospective fields near Cano Limon, namely Cano Verde, Pirana, and Pituco were initiated this month.